

Bayfield County Times

A Periodic Publication for County Municipal Officials

Welcome to the Bayfield County Winter Times! 2016 will be a big year for the County.

Key focus areas for the 2016 budget include Highway, The Sheriff Office and Human Services.

In Highway the County plans to reconstruct over 10 miles of roads and add mechanical support to the Shop. The Sheriff's Office is working hard to address a boom of meth and heroin cases. An additional officer will be added to increase coverage county wide. Human Services is looking at the aging of the county population. Additional staff to help both Family Services and Aging services will improve service and response throughout Bayfield County.

Across the board County Departments provide conscientious and dedicated service. Access to County services are expanding this year with Addressing and Zoning Permit web applications allowing residents to do business from afar. These applications will supplement existing online opportunities including Timber Permits, Job Applications, Deeds searches and Online Purchasing.

Continued economic development efforts at the Bayfield County Business Park celebrated recent sales to three new business owners. These include St. Iz's Acres, LLC, Dizzy Cow, a local farm cooperative and Greg Martinsen. Please welcome these new business owners and help them succeed! If you are interested in a parcel, have suggestions for other local businesses or any other questions about economic development countywide call Bayfield County Economic Development Director, Scottie Sandstrom @ 715 209-4589.

We know that sharing information and providing you access to county services is important. You can access all county departments 24 hours a day via the county web site at www.bayfieldcounty.org.

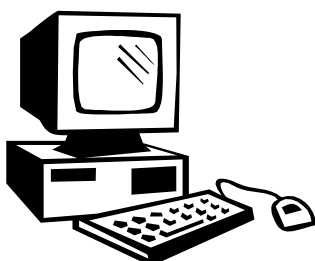
For real time social media contacts follow us on our four Facebook accounts and our three Twitter accounts:

FACEBOOK:

- Bayfield County Government
- Bayfield County Tourism,
- Bayfield County Sheriff's Office
- Bayfield County Health

TWITTER:

- BayfieldCoGov
- Bayfieldcounty
- BayfieldCtyHR



**YOUR SOURCE FOR ALL THINGS
BAYFIELD COUNTY**

www.bayfieldcounty.org

EMPLOYEE & COMMUNITY WELLNESS IN 2016

Bayfield County has had a very active employee wellness program since 2006. The Bayfield County Wellness Program has made great progress with employee participation; offering numerous types of programming and incentives that are available to employees. With our success internally working well we turned our direction to the broader community and are developing programs to outreach to more people building a community-wide wellness program for 2016.

The Bayfield County Community Wellness program aims to improve the physical, social and environmental conditions that contribute to poor health, and support a quality of life that promotes the health and well-being of all county residents. To accomplish this, we will work in partnership with individuals, rural communities, and businesses to increase individual knowledge and skills, educate and mobilize communities, build coalitions, and advocate for changes in organizational and public policy.



Bayfield County's wellness plan for 2016 will include a 3rd annual Community Wellness Fair that will be held at the St. Louis Catholic School in Washburn. (Date TBD) The health department is exploring a wellness week promotion where different vendors will set up at Health Department each day of the week and the public will be invited to visit and learn new health improvement tactics and options.

The *Passport to Wellness* program that highlights the region's walking and hiking trails launched in the summer 2015 and proved very successful. This is an incentive-based program where individuals/and or families are provided a reward based upon how many trails they completed in their Passport. The incentives include chamber dollars ranging from \$20-\$30 along with a choice of t-shirt, water bottle or pedometer. The Healthy Change Coalition will launch the *Passport to Wellness* in the spring 2016 and are also working on developing similar programming that would highlight organized events in the region such as area 5k's, bike/ski events, etc. We have also developed a nutrition and physical activity coalition called the Healthy CHANGE Coalition that is a successful collaboration between Ashland and Bayfield County, local businesses and partnerships. Their mission is to improve access to healthy food choices through education and access, along with concentrating on environmental and policy changes in the areas of physical activity.



SHERIFF'S OFFICE INFORMATION

The Sheriff's Office is pleased to announce that another deputy will be added to the ranks within the next month. This is a very welcome addition since the deputy staff numbers have been static for many years. Response times to calls for service have been a major concern for the Sheriff. The addition of even one person has a measurable effect on improving this issue.

The jail has begun implementing a 120 day in-house drug treatment program. The program is designed for long-term inmates that are assessed with drug related abuse and behavioral issues. This project is funded in part by the Wisconsin Department of Corrections. The Bayfield County Jail often houses persons that are in violation of their rules of probation or are facing revocation of their probation. Persons who have their probation revoked face being sent to prison. Alcohol abuse is still the most common form of chemical abuse in Bayfield County. Prescription drugs are also a leading cause of abuse concerns. Methamphetamine related arrests have also been on the rise.

With winter upon us, the Sheriff's Office is spending considerable time on winter related activities. Each new snowfall generates multiple traffic crashes and cars in the ditch. The recreation officer as well as other deputies are handling the incidents involving snowmobile activity.

People are reminded to enjoy winter travel and activities, but to please use caution in conditions of slippery roads and poor visibility. Snowmobilers are encouraged to operate at safe speeds and to respect private property. Most people who recreate the Bayfield County area have been very cooperative.

The Sheriff's Office would like to encourage the cities and towns to share any items of concern. The cooperation between county and other municipalities has been excellent.

The Sheriff's Office is always working to improve emergency services communications. All requests for local police, fire department and ambulance services come through the Sheriff's Office 911 emergency communications center. This service is vital to our communities. The strong working relationship between local emergency service agencies and Bayfield County helps insure competent responses to the needs of our citizens.

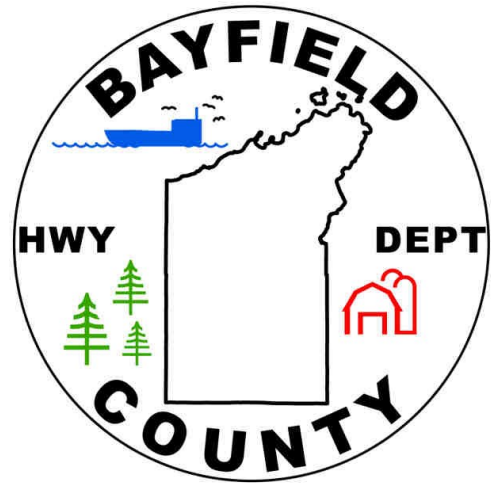


ROADS

The Bayfield County Highway Department reports that it is anticipating a busy construction season this season. Pulverizing and resurfacing projects will be conducted on; CTH M (Dells Rd.-CTH D), CTH E (USH 2-CTH H), and CTH H (CTH E-Pike River Rd). Highways will remain open to traffic but will be restricted to one lane with flaggers. As always, expect delays, be patient and drive carefully. Using an alternate route is still the best option.

Load Limits/ Road Postings will be coming up shortly. Historically in mid-March we post our roads for the spring break-up at 6 tons per single axle and 10 tons per tandem axle. We do have exemptions for some commodities and we do issue single trip permits for special situations. There is a wealth of information available on the subject and you may always contact the Highway Department for guidance.

As the spring thaw approaches, towns should be aware that there is state assistance for flood damaged roads. The road must be rendered unpassable and closed. There is a 60 day time limit for claims and photographs are required. The program is administered by WisDOT, but you may call the Highway Department for contact information.



The Highway Department also administers a Bridge Aid program which splits the cost of replacing failed bridges and culverts greater than 36" in diameter. Call us.

Finally, please read your LRIP guidelines before putting any projects to bid. It's an easy program until you miss a step.

Please, call us if you have any transportation related questions. If we don't know the answer, we should be able to find it for you.

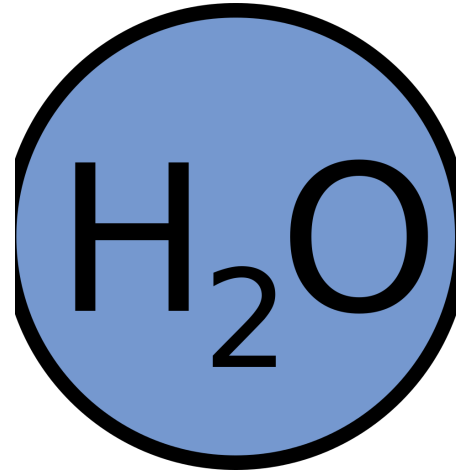
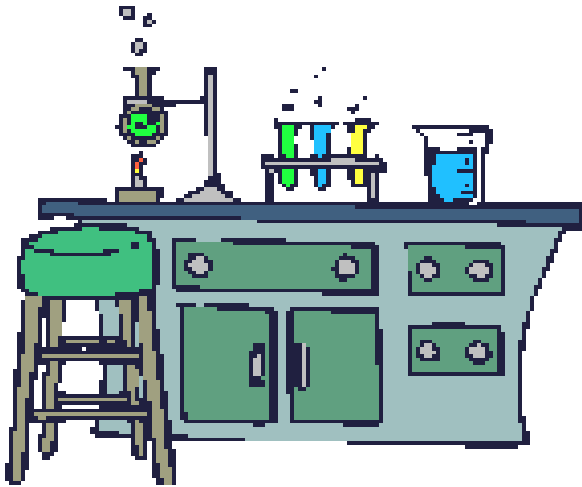
Bayfield County Highway Department 715-373-6115

Tom Toepfer, Highway Commissioner

BAYFIELD COUNTY FUN FACTS

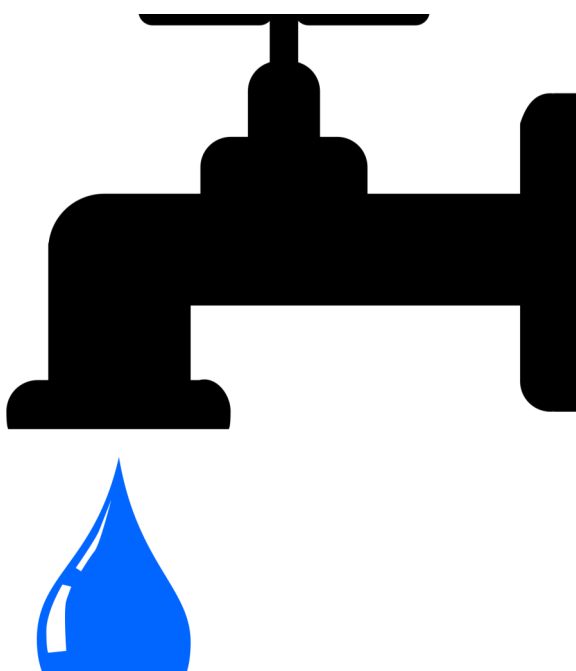
- ◆ Bayfield County is the second largest county in the state of Wisconsin (1500 square miles)
- ◆ Bayfield County is 83% Forested
- ◆ Year-round population is approximately 15,000 (Triples in summer months)
- ◆ There are over 2,000 miles of road in Bayfield County
- ◆ There are over 962 lakes, covering over 22,000 acres of inland waters in Bayfield County
- ◆ Bayfield County is comprised of 25 towns, 2 cities, 1 village, 1 tribal reservation

DRINKING WATER LAB EXPANDS SERVICES



The drinking water laboratory at the Bayfield County Health Department will be expanding the services provided to residents and local municipalities. New for 2016, our laboratory will be partnering with University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh to offer nitrate and arsenic testing. Bottles and forms can be picked up and samples dropped off at the health department. We will also be offering in house quantitative bacterial analysis for surface or agricultural water testing due to new standards for farm irrigation water.

As an on-going part of the county ground water study, we are making testing more accessible for county residents by offering community testing days for interested municipalities. For this service we would deliver bottles to a local pick up site. Residents would then bring bottles back to the site on a specific day. One of our staff would be available that day to answer questions, as well as transport samples back to the laboratory for testing. Municipal drinking water supplies are encouraged to contact the health department at (715) 373-6109 for more information on services.



FREE In-Person Tax Preparation Service

The AARP Foundation, Bayfield County Administration and the IRS are excited to announce free tax preparation. All ages with income under \$100,000 welcome. Tax preparation is provided by IRS certified volunteers.

Where: Bayfield County Courthouse Complex, 117 E. 5th Street, Washburn, WI. (Handicap and Senior Friendly Parking is available at the 6th Street Entrance)

When: Tuesdays, February 2nd to April 5th, 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. and Wednesdays, February 3rd to April 13th, 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Questions: Jim at 715-779-3999

This is a walk in site. Returns will be prepared on a first come, first serve basis. Appointments for following weeks can be given in person at the site during the tax preparation hours.

The volunteers are certified to file most returns. The following are out of scope returns that we will not prepare: Married filing separately or final divorce in 2015; Active Military and International returns; Part year WI residents; Small business with expenses exceeding \$5000, depreciation or losses; Rental property; Complicated Schedule D (Usually Day Traders)



We can file most other returns including Homestead. If filing for Homestead Credit, please bring a copy of your tax bill or an original Rent Certificate completed by your landlord with no errors or alterations.

Documents to bring: a picture ID, Social Security cards or other official documentation (e.g. income statement for yourself and all dependents), all W-2's, 1099's, all records indicating federal and state income tax paid, Child Care provider statements, records for itemizing deductions and Last year's tax return. If you want direct deposit of refunds or direct pay tax due, a check with the routing and account number will be required.

If a joint return, both taxpayers must be present to sign a form allowing us to e-file and verify the accuracy of their return.

Upon completion, you will receive a printed copy of the return for your records.

*All returns will be e-filed

Multiple attorneys will be presenting information about family law- from divorces to child custody and placement. This is for people who want to represent themselves in family law cases or for people with questions about child custody or placement. Attorneys will be presenting, but will not be giving legal advice.

Family Law 101

**March 2, 2016
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

**Bayfield County
Courtroom
115 E. Fifth Street
Washburn, WI 54891**

Learn about court procedures, self-representation forms, and an overview of the legal standards.

Presented by Northlakes Community Clinic in partnership with Attorney Kimberly Lawton.

MEALS ON WHEELS PROGRAM FOR SENIORS

Meals on Wheels, also known as Home Delivered Meals, are a service available to help older people maintain their nutritional status and overall independence. In addition to providing hot nutritious meals 4 times per week, people receiving the meals are greeted by friendly staff that provide regular interactions and a way to help ensure the ongoing wellbeing of those receiving meals. Over the past 30 years, the goals have remained unchanged: help reduce hunger, promote socialization and health and delay adverse health conditions. For these reasons, Meals on Wheels are seen as a key gap-filling service for individuals who, for whatever reason, may not be able to access other services. Many older adults and/or their family members often times find the support from this program to be very helpful.



The service is not means-tested, which means there are no financial eligibility criteria that need to be met. However, functional eligibility criteria do apply. To receive home-delivered meals, an individual must be assessed to be homebound or otherwise unable to obtain and prepare meals for themselves.

We are at a time in history where local, state and federal budgets are tighter than ever, and our leaders are trying to find way sto cut back and streamline operations so that negative impacts made will be minimized as much as possible. With that being said, there is strong county support for programs for seniors, particularly Meals on Wheels, which is funded with Federal, state and county dollars and program participant donations.

If you or someone you know is interested in receiving home delivered meals or want to learn more about the program, please call the Aging and Disability Resource Center of the North at 1-866-663-3607.

UPDATE ON BAYFIELD COUNTY FOREST TIMBER SALE REVENUES AND TOWNSHIP PAYMENTS

The Bayfield County Forest provides a wide variety of amenities to meet the diverse needs of the public. One primary objective is the sustainable production of quality forest products.

Every year, 10% of all net revenues collected from the sale of County Forest stumpage are distributed to Townships that contain County Forest land. The payment is based upon the proportion of total County Forest acres located within each Town. It is important to note that the distribution of funds is not based upon where actual timber harvesting occurred. Ten percent of the total net timber sale receipts, regardless of where harvesting took place, are distributed to every Township based solely upon County Forest acreage located within each Town. For example, if no harvesting took place in the Town of Russell, they would still receive funds based upon their proportional share of the total receipts.

2013 was a record breaking year for revenues from the sale of wood. 2014 was even better. And 2015 was the best yet! Three consecutive years of record breaking stumpage revenues. Over the past few years, Bayfield County made it a priority to maximize the sustainable production of timber on the County Forest. Numerous changes were made to accomplish this goal and now we are seeing the returns. The result: we generated nearly \$4.0 million in stumpage revenue in CY 2013, over \$4.5 million in CY 2014 and nearly \$5.0 million in CY 2015. That's an increase of nearly \$2.5 million when compared to the average stumpage revenues collected prior to reorganization.

Table 1 summarizes the distribution of stumpage revenues to Townships that contain County Forest Land.

Table 1: Bayfield County Forest Annual Township Payments - 10% Timber Sale Revenue Sharing

Township	County Forest Acreage	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	Average 2010 - 2015
Barnes	39,362	\$115,891.87	\$105,321.37	\$90,616.21	\$62,593.12	\$57,493.95	\$47,527.29	\$79,907.30
Bayfield	32,793	\$96,659.11	\$87,843.21	\$75,578.38	\$52,205.74	\$47,952.79	\$39,640.10	\$66,646.55
Bayview	12,952	\$38,175.42	\$34,694.05	\$29,850.00	\$20,618.88	\$18,939.15	\$15,656.02	\$26,322.25
Bell	14,585	\$42,990.73	\$39,069.71	\$33,614.73	\$23,219.36	\$21,327.79	\$17,630.59	\$29,642.15
Cable	5,556	\$16,377.73	\$14,883.98	\$12,805.85	\$8,845.64	\$8,125.03	\$6,716.54	\$11,292.46
Clover	5,387	\$15,877.42	\$14,429.31	\$12,414.66	\$8,575.42	\$7,876.82	\$6,511.36	\$10,947.50
Hughes	24,057	\$70,908.91	\$64,441.59	\$55,444.14	\$38,298.02	\$35,178.06	\$29,079.89	\$48,891.77
Iron River	6,042	\$17,809.74	\$16,185.38	\$13,925.55	\$9,619.07	\$8,835.45	\$7,303.81	\$12,279.83
Orienta	4,720	\$13,912.66	\$12,643.74	\$10,878.40	\$7,514.25	\$6,902.10	\$5,705.61	\$9,592.79
Port Wing	8,876	\$26,163.12	\$23,776.89	\$20,457.12	\$14,130.75	\$12,979.58	\$10,729.55	\$18,039.50
Russell	8,571	\$25,263.37	\$22,959.20	\$19,753.60	\$13,644.79	\$12,533.21	\$10,360.56	\$17,419.12
Tripp	6,544	\$19,275.70	\$17,517.64	\$15,071.79	\$10,410.84	\$9,562.71	\$7,905.00	\$13,290.61
Total	169,445	\$499,305.78	\$453,766.06	\$390,410.42	\$269,675.87	\$247,706.64	\$204,766.34	\$344,271.85

The last three years have been exceptional. Since 2012, Township timber sale revenue sharing payments have increased by nearly 85%! They've more than doubled when compared to 2010.

In addition to timber sale revenue sharing, Townships receive other annual payments as a direct result of having Bayfield County Forest land located within Town boundaries.

The State of Wisconsin annually distributes \$0.30/acre to every Township that contains County Forest land. This payment is referred to as Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILT). Bayfield County and the Wisconsin County Forest Association (WCFA) are still lobbying to increase the PILT payment from \$0.30/acre to \$1.00/acre. PILT payments haven't been increased in over 20 years!

In 2010, Bayfield County developed the Town Road Aid Fund. This fund was created to help improve problem areas on Town Roads that provide critical access to the County Forest. Town Road Aids were initially funded at 1% of total annual timber sale revenues (enacted once actual revenues exceed the budgeted amount). Starting in 2014, Bayfield County increased the funding level to 2%, with a cap of \$80,000. There will be another \$80,000 available for Town Road projects in CY 2016! Of the 29 County Forests in the State of Wisconsin, Bayfield County is the only one to offer this additional source of funding.

Table 2 summarizes the PILT and Road Aid payments, in addition to the timber sale revenue sharing.

Table 2: Bayfield County Forest Annual Township Payments (CY 2015)

Township	County Forest Acreage	Timber Sale 10% Fund	PILT* \$0.30/Acre	Town Road Aids**	Total	Total Avg. 2010-2013
Barnes	39,362	\$115,891.87	\$11,808.60	\$10,000.00	\$137,700.47	\$81,172.18
Bayfield	32,793	\$96,659.11	\$9,837.90	\$10,000.00	\$116,497.01	\$67,487.42
Bayview	12,952	\$38,175.42	\$3,885.60	\$7,500.00	\$49,561.02	\$26,436.88
Bell	14,585	\$42,990.73	\$4,375.50	\$9,515.19	\$56,881.42	\$29,967.37
Cable	5,556	\$16,377.73	\$1,666.80	\$4,000.00	\$22,044.53	\$11,477.56
Clover	5,387	\$15,877.42	\$1,616.10	\$2,393.67	\$19,887.19	\$11,310.42
Hughes	24,057	\$70,908.91	\$7,217.10	\$7,000.00	\$85,126.01	\$49,113.25
Iron River	6,042	\$17,809.74	\$1,812.60	\$7,000.00	\$26,622.34	\$12,733.57
Orienta	4,720	\$13,912.66	\$1,416.00	\$5,670.00	\$20,998.66	\$10,411.09
Port Wing	8,876	\$26,163.12	\$2,662.80	\$3,000.00	\$31,825.92	\$18,261.55
Russell	8,571	\$25,263.37	\$2,571.30	\$3,275.00	\$31,109.67	\$17,794.34
Tripp	6,544	\$19,275.70	\$1,963.20	\$7,000.00	\$28,238.90	\$14,998.79
Total	169,445	\$499,305.78	\$50,833.50	\$76,353.86	\$626,493.14	\$351,164.41

* Payment in lieu of taxes - distributed by the State of Wisconsin

** increased from 1% timber sale revenue to 2% starting in CY 2014

For reference, Table 2 also summarizes the average total payments each Township received from 2010-2013. When compared to total revenues received in 2015, every Township has experienced a significant increase in payments. These increases range from approximately \$10,000 for smaller County Forest Townships like Clover, Cable and Orienta, to between \$40,000 and \$60,000 for larger County Forest Townships like Hughes, Bayfield and Barnes.

Long term projections indicate stable to slight increases in future timber sale potential. If markets continue to stay constant, we conservatively estimate timber sale revenues to hover around \$3.5 million per year.

Save the Date!
August 11-12-13-14, 2016!
Bayfieldcounty.org/fair

Attend the 2016 Bayfield County Fair for Less, for Free or even Earn \$\$!

Pay Less –

Are you 65 years of age or older? New inn 2016 there will be a special Senior Citizen rate of \$10 per day. This special rate will be available each day of the Fair.

Enter items in the Fair to receive a special Exhibitor rate of \$20 which includes a Season Pass (\$30 value)! Show off the items you have created throughout the year. Any Wisconsin resident may enter in Open Class. Any youth in a recognized Bayfield County youth organization (Scouts, FFA, etc.) may enter in the Junior Fair.

To receive the special price, entry forms must be turned in to the Fair office by June 25th

Get in FREE –

Receive a **FREE Season Pass** (admission all 4 days) if you volunteer for six hours or more in the Exhibit Hall. Assist with checking items in, attaching ribbons/stickers, entry check-out or even security.



Earn \$\$ –

Exhibitors - if you place 1st, 2nd, 3rd or 4th you will receive a payment (premium) after the Fair. Premium amounts vary depending on how you place and what you enter. Check the Premium List for the amounts and get started on your projects!

Ticket Sellers – Earn \$\$ for your non-profit organization (church, clubs, schools- trips, sports, music-, etc.) by working at a ticket gate. You'll also **get a Free Daily Pass when you work a shift.**

Grandstand shows, parking & unlimited carnival rides included with Season & Daily Passes!

Grandstand shows:

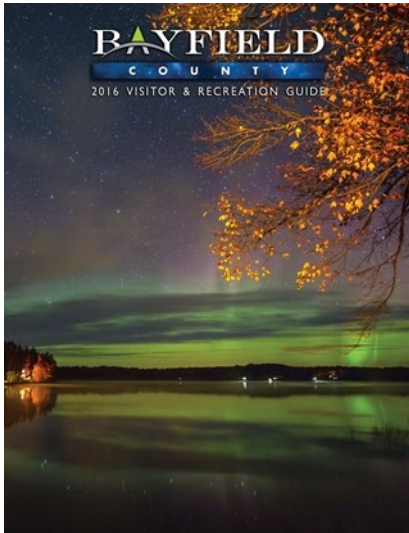
Fri 8/12 - 7 pm - Great Frontier Bull Riding,
Sat 8/13 –8 pm - Division Stunt Team



IMPORTANT Reminder to Towns: Whenever there are changes to ATV or Snowmobile Routes in your jurisdiction, be sure to notify the DNR, Sheriff's Department and the County Forestry office. Thank You.

TIPS FROM THE TOURISM OFFICE

Snowplowing – If at all possible, please wing one side of plowed roads for snowmobiles.



Brochures & maps – let us know if you would like a supply to have available at your Town Hall for distribution (Visitor & Recreation Guide, Snowmobile maps, ATV/UTV maps, WI Lake Superior Scenic Byway maps, Ashland/Bayfield County Bike Route maps): <http://www.bayfieldcounty.org/FormCenter/Tourism-12/Publication-Order-Form-59> or go to www.bayfieldcounty.org and then Government/Departments/Tourism/Resources for Local Businesses to find the information.

Events – Please let us know about any events that you host so that we can help promote them! Submit event details online here: <http://bayfieldcounty.org/FormCenter/Tourism-12/Event-Submission-Form-56>. You can also get to this link from the “Resources for Local Businesses” tab on the Tourism Department page on the county website.

Please consider adding the county website link to your town website to help people connect to the information that is available there: www.bayfieldcounty.org. You can stay on top of timely information, sign up for meeting notifications, order plat books and much more!

View our Winter promotional video on the Bayfield County Youtube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZryekdCiIYI>

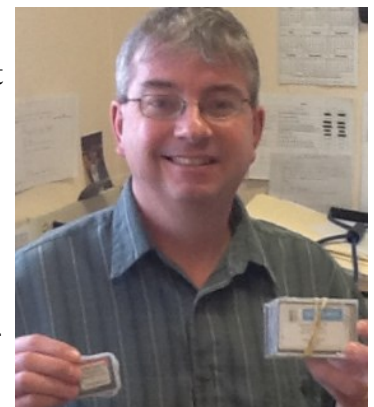


Stay on top of what's happening in Bayfield County on the Bayfield County Tourism Facebook page.

READY FOR SPRING ELECTIONS?

This is a busy year for elections with our first one being a primary on February 16th for Justice of the Supreme Court, County Supervisory District 11, and Bayfield School District. The elections to follow are April 5 (Spring Election), August 9 (Fall Primary), and November 8 (General Election). Please remember that a **PHOTO ID IS REQUIRED** to vote at any election. A valid unexpired photo i.d. is required for registration but if you are already registered some expired photo i.d.'s could be used to vote if expired no later than the last general election (currently November 4, 2014). Municipalities are reminded that results of caucuses need to be forwarded to the County Clerk as soon as possible. Once all information is reported to the County Clerk, draft ballots will be prepared and forwarded to municipalities for final proofing before the official ballots are printed.

After elections are completed, municipalities are reminded to provide a list of all elected officials and their contact information to the County Clerk to be published in the County's official directory.



County Clerk Scott Fibert

Thank you to all Clerks and Election workers for your efforts in making the election process work smoothly!

Bayfield County

117 East Fifth Street

PO Box 878

Washburn, WI 54891

Phone: 715-373-6181

Fax: 715-373-6153

Email: KKavajecz@Bayfieldcounty.org

or

MarkAA@Bayfieldcounty.org*Serving the Citizens of
Bayfield County*

*Bayfield County Courthouse
Built 1908*


www.bayfieldcounty.org
2017 Budget Suggestions Wanted

2016 is barely underway but efforts over the next six months will begin to unfold priorities and projects for the new year. If you have ideas for budget items in 2017 please send them on. Here is the budget calendar for this year.

- January-March: Develop broad budget initiatives for 2017.
- April: Community Survey on 2017 initiatives
- May: County Board Budget Planning and Priority Setting Session.
- June: Direction to County Department Heads
- August: Departments submit proposed budgets
- September: County Administrator submits a proposed, balanced budget
- September / October: County Executive Committee meet an average of four times to review and modify the proposed budget as presented.
- October / November: Budget is presented to the full board for consideration.

Share your thoughts today! markaa@bayfieldcounty.org

FORECLOSURE? HELP IS AVAILABLE

Every year property owners in Bayfield County risk losing their home due to foreclosure.

Resources are available to help residents access critical resources during these very difficult times.

Counselors are available at local non-profit organizations that can help make the best of a difficult and unfortunate situations. Their services are free and confidential.

The Wisconsin 2-1-1 call service or (877) 947-2211 can help connect you to resources for assistance today.

You can also call receive Mortgage Delinquency and Default Resolution Counseling through Catholic Community Services in Superior at 888-831-8446.

If you or someone you know is on the tax delinquency list and are experiencing financial hardship it is important to get help now.

Foreclosure is final. We can't help if you don't call.